

REMARKS

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendment prior to continued examination of the application. Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-31 have been canceled. Claim 5, which has been indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action dated December 27, 2005, has been amended to independent form and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate corresponding allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner in original claim 5, and thus, claim 15 is also believed to be allowable.

Applicants have amended claims 5 and 15 and canceled claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-31 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/

Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)